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THE  
INTERNATIONAL  
ANTI-SEMITIC  
CONSPIRACY

BY  
GEORGE J. MINTZER  
AND  
NEWMAN LEVY

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THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE  
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GEORGE J. MINTZER  
NEWMAN LEVY

New York, February 4, 1946.

## PREFACE

This paper was prepared by us as Counsel to the Legal Committee of The American Jewish Committee to form the basis of a discussion at a conference sponsored jointly by The American Jewish Committee and the Anglo-Jewish Association in London on February 23, 1946. This conference was called to discuss urgent problems facing the Jews of the world and representatives from many countries have been invited.

We are aware that conditions in many other countries are quite different from those in the United States, and that it is not wise to stress too hard the analogies from our experience. Nevertheless, we hope that some of the lessons we have learned will be useful to those who are facing similar problems elsewhere.

We are convinced that an international conspiracy has existed for many years, and that it still exists. The conspirators have had a temporary setback due to the defeat of Germany, but they are re-forming their lines and preparing for a new attack.

The disease of anti-semitism cannot be quarantined within the confines of national boundary lines. The problem is, therefore, a common problem and responsibility of Jews everywhere. It is to help in finding a solution of this age-old problem that this paper is submitted.

GEORGE J. MINTZER  
NEWMAN LEVY

New York City, February 4, 1946.

# PART ONE

## THE INTERNATIONAL ANTI-SEMITIC CONSPIRACY

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### INTRODUCTION

The tragedy that overtook the Jews of the world since the end of the First World War resulted not only in the destruction of a large proportion of their number but also in an intensification of antagonism toward those who remain in every country in the world. For the first time in modern history organized anti-semitism on an international basis became an instrument of governmental policy, and wherever the Nazi influence spread hatred of the Jews spread with it. At the height of Hitler's power a vast section of the civilized world was under his domination and as his power receded the residue of anti-semitism was left behind.

We propose to demonstrate that long before the accession of Hitler there was a well-organized international conspiracy against the Jews. This conspiracy spread out to all corners of the globe. When the Nazis came into power they found in this international conspiracy a ready-made instrument to serve their purpose and they took it over as an adjunct of Nazi foreign policy.

The war is now over and the Nazis as a political force have been destroyed. Evidence from all parts of the world, however, indicates that organized anti-semitism has not ended with the Nazis. Many of these leaders of the international conspiracy who were either in prison or detention camps during the war or who remained inactive for reasons of personal security are now coming out of their hiding and are resuming their activities. There are indications that the international conspiracy will be resumed unless steps are taken to thwart it.

There were many reasons why the efforts to stem the rising tide of anti-semitism were ineffectual, but one that should be mentioned at the outset was the fact that the Jews in the various countries affected regarded anti-semitism as purely a local problem. The steps that were taken and the remedies devised were conceived in the light of the local situation without regard to the international implications. If we have learned anything in recent years it has been the painful lesson that racial and religious hatred cannot be confined by national boundaries. We hope that out of this conference will emerge a realization that the problem of anti-semitism anywhere is a part of the larger problem of anti-semitism everywhere, and that although it must be appraised and considered in its national aspects it can be fought effectively only by a realization that it is world-wide in scope.

We intend to take up herein the following:

1) An international anti-semitic conspiracy existed prior to the accession of Hitler to power.

2) This conspiracy was taken over and made an instrument of the Nazi Government and of Nazi policy.

3) There was continuous intercommunication between anti-semitic leaders in various countries of the world.

4) International conferences were held at which techniques to promote anti-semitism were devised, literature was planned and prepared, and arrangements made for its international dissemination.

5) During the war, and more particularly since the end of the war, there has been an intensification of anti-semitic activity in nearly every country in the world.

6) Finally, we intend to give a brief history of the development of organized anti-semitism in the United States, and some of the measures that have been taken to combat it.



## THE INTERNATIONAL CONSPIRACY

There is no need to recount in detail the now familiar story of the development of organized anti-semitism in modern Europe. It is sufficient to say that the equality achieved by the Jews after the French Revolution was always tenuous and insecure, and that whenever it was useful as an instrument of governmental policy to look for a convenient scapegoat to divert the public mind from other problems the traditional scapegoat of history was there at hand. The Dreyfus case, the government-inspired pogroms in Russia under the Czar, and the acceptance by Bismarck in Germany of anti-semitism is a matter of familiar history.

During the '80's and '90's a flood of anti-semitic literature emanated from the pseudo-scholars of Germany. In 1882 a world congress of anti-semites was held at Dresden attended by Germans, Austro-Hungarians and Russians. Another convention was held at Bochum in 1889. These congresses are mentioned as a matter of historical interest, but they were the seeds from which ultimately developed the more effective international conspiracy.

In 1925 an international anti-semitic conference was held in Budapest. This was the first successful attempt at international organization. The conference was arranged by the Austrian diplomat, Georges Depottere, who traveled through Austria, France, England and Poland in order to campaign for an anti-semitic congress which would eventually form the basis of an Anti-Semitic International. Depottere had been an active anti-semitic crusader for years, and had an extensive acquaintance with leaders of the movement in many countries. In a letter we have, Captain Henry Hamilton Beamish of South Africa, promoter of international anti-semitism, writing to Adrien Arcand, Canadian fascist leader, states: "Depottere is an excellent fellow and a front line fighter in the great cause since 1919."

There were difficulties, of course, growing out of national and religious rivalries. Theodor Fritsch, the notorious German anti-semitic propagandist and pamphleteer, favored the conference only on condition that the chairmanship be handed over to him and that no Catholics be invited, declaring that Catholics and Jews were akin. Dr. Boepple, anti-semitic leader of Munich, refused to sit at the same table with a Frenchman, and Professor Cuza, leader of the Rumanian anti-semites, objected to having the seat of the congress in Budapest. At length Depottiere succeeded in overcoming the objections and the conference was held. Tibor von Eckart, president of the leading Hungarian anti-Jewish organization, the *Awakening Magyars*, and publisher of the anti-semitic *Courier Danubien*, sent out invitations in the French language and the congress was held in the club building of the *Awakening Magyars* in Budapest.

The program of the congress was to determine the methods "to free the enslaved peoples of the world from the domination of International Jewry". At the first meeting it became evident that the participants were not in harmony and displayed even on the first day a tendency to disagree. One group which represented the radicals of the conference openly demanded direct action against the Jews. This group was composed largely of the German delegates of which Theodor Fritsch was one of the leaders, the Hungarian delegates (*Awakening Magyars*), the Rumanians, represented by Professor Cuza of Jassy, and the Austrian National Socialists, represented by Gattermeyer and Haubenberger.

The Austrian Schager group (Party of the Legitimist Royalists) lined up with the direct actionists, but its leaders, Baron Schager, Dr. Wolff and Ministry Secretary Teuffel, protested against the resolution introduced by the German representatives advocating the slogan, "Help Yourself by Pogroms!"



The second group, which might be called the Latin group, energetically opposed the views urged by the Nordic group. The most prominent representative of this group was Monsignor Benigne who represented Italy, and who was noted as an active crusader against the Freemasons, Abbe Duperron, the French delegate, two representatives of the Czechoslovakian Christian Peoples Party, and the representative of the Russian monarchists, Dr. Nemirowitsch-Datschenko. The Russian delegate, however, frequently voted for the proposals of the German delegates.

This Latin group was opposed to the extreme direct action program of the Nordics, and advocated concentrating the attack upon the Jewish religious international which they identified with Jewish Freemasonry and which they maintained led to materialism. This conflict in views caused violent dissension. Benigne and Depottère were interrupted by exclamations of "Jesuit" and "Jewish hirelings of Rome". The conference would probably have been broken up at the beginning had it not been for the intervention of Julius Goemboes, who later became Prime Minister of Hungary, and Depottère.

When the conference adjourned it had arrived at certain definite conclusions and plans. The first was to create a Bureau of the Anti-Semitic International with headquarters in Vienna. To this Bureau representatives of anti-semitism in Germany, France, Austria and from the Russian monarchists would be delegated yearly. Two seats were left open for delegates of other countries to be decided upon by the unanimous agreement of the others.

Second, a council was created of five persons which would be entrusted with the direction of the international anti-semitic movement. The members of the council designated were Theodor Fritsch of Germany, Miss Nesta Webster of England, General Neschvolodow of Russia, and Dr. Ulian of Hungary.

Third, the conference established a Press Committee to carry on anti-semitic propaganda consisting of the publishers of the following anti-semitic papers: *Der Hammer*, *Welt-Kampf* and *Voelkischer Beobachter*, the Hungarian papers *Nep*, *Szozat* and *Courier Danubien*, and the Italian papers *Agenzia Urbs* and *Roma*, and the Czech paper *Stilt Narodu*.

Fourth, was the establishment of fighting detachments. Armed groups were to be formed and equipped in the various countries. In Hungary in the nucleus was the military detachments of the *Awakening Magyars*, in Germany the associations *Viking* and *Frontbann*, in France the *Camelots* and in Poland the *Orel*. These associations were entrusted with the task of carrying out political murder, protecting the murderers, helping them to escape and supporting them in every way.

The second International Anti-Semitic Conference took place in Copenhagen on August 8-11, 1926. Representatives from Germany, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Austria, Holland, Poland, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary were present, also some Russian emigres. The conference concerned itself principally with international high finance and its alleged domination by the Jews. In the report of the conference *Der Welt-Kampf* stated: "The existing national tangles were not officially touched upon. It was realized that all nations will have their racial existence and their very souls destroyed if the exclusion of the Jews is not carried through everywhere. Everyone of the participants was conscious of the fact that it would be useless to make Jewry harmless in one State, and recognized the fact that the premise for a national culture was the complete exclusion of all Jews from all countries. No one inclined to the deceptive belief that the fight was an easy one and all have derived new courage and new power from the frank exchange of views. The fight goes on until the finish."

Two other conferences were held, one in 1933 in Copenhagen and one in 1934 in Budapest. We have little information as to what occurred at these conferences except that we know that they were attended by delegates from many European countries. However, by this time the Nazis had taken over the German Government and the voluntary Anti-Semitic International now became officially a subordinate part of a sovereign European power. Leaders in the movement throughout the world were absorbed into the Nazi organization and given positions of authority as well as large subsidies. A number of international anti-semitic organizations were established. Among the more important were the Pan-Aryan League and the Anti-Jewish World League founded by Julius Streicher.

The World Confederation of Anti-Semites, which was the direct successor of the international organizations heretofore discussed, was set up by the Nazi Government with offices in Erfurt, Germany. The director of the organization was Georges Depottere, who, as we pointed out, was the organizer and prime mover of the conference in Budapest in 1925. Erfurt was also the headquarters of *World Service*, the anti-semitic propaganda sheet published by the Nazis under the direction of Lieutenant Colonel Ulrich Fleischhauer. This sheet, which contained all sorts of scurrilous anti-semitic libels, was printed at its peak in eleven languages and distributed widely throughout the world. Along with the publication of *World Service* the Nazis maintained an institution for the study of the Jewish question.

By 1937 the Nazi propaganda machine was going full blast, and anti-semites throughout the world, dazzled by the phenomenal success of Hitler, became bolder and more outspoken. It was in 1937 that *World Service* called an international conference of anti-semites in Erfurt, Germany. This conference was attended by delegates from twenty-two countries. As an indication of the extent to

which international organization had spread by this time, we find that delegates were present from as far off as Harbin, Manchuria, from Canada, South Africa and South America. The United States sent three delegates to the Erfurt World Congress—George E. Deatherage, the leader of a fascist organization called *The Knights of the White Camellia* and the head of an organization called the *American Nationalist Confederation* that had adopted the swastika as its emblem, Dr. George Campbell, a notorious anti-semite, and Ernest F. Elmhurst, a Nazi agent whose real name is Fleischkopf. Deatherage delivered a speech at the congress entitled, "Will America be the Jews' Waterloo?"

From what has since been learned about the conference, the question of the United States played a prominent position upon the agenda. When the delegates returned to the United States they brought with them plans and techniques that were to be put into action. Among them was an idea that had been successful in other countries, based upon a realization that the military mind is traditionally hospitable to reaction. It was determined that the army should be used as the core of the anti-semitic movement, and that leadership should be looked for among high-ranking officers. A number of developments in America that will be discussed later can be said to have stemmed from the Erfurt Congress.

The fact that the Erfurt conference arrived at a definite program to promote international anti-semitism is borne out by a quotation from a letter in our possession dated September 20, 1937 from H. H. Beamish in London to Adrien Arcand in Canada. Beamish writes:

"The conference at the latter place (Erfurt) was a great success, twenty-two nationalities sent representatives and as you can imagine it was a great joy to me to see so many nationalities gathered together for the purpose of formulating a united policy for combatting the greatest Menace known to mankind."

At this time Robert E. Edmondson, the notorious American anti-semitite, was under indictment in New York City for criminal libel against the Jews, and a letter of sympathy and encouragement was sent to him from Erfurt, signed by a number of the delegates. Aware of the growing anti-Nazi feeling in the United States, Beamish and the others kept the German names other than Fleischhauer's out of the letter. Beamish wrote to Arcand in the same letter quoted above:

"It (the Edmondson letter) may be of some assistance in that it contains the signature of the Polish Monsignor who attended the conference and who had much to say on the question. I confined the signatures to non-German ones so that nobody could say it was in any way German propaganda."

The reference to the Polish Monsignor is significant. Among the matters discussed at the Erfurt conference were methods of stirring up anti-semitism among Catholics, particularly in the predominantly Catholic countries. The name of a Monsignor on the letter would, as Beamish points out, be extremely helpful to Arcand in his activities among the Catholics in the Province of Quebec, Canada.

In a letter from Beamish to Robert E. Edmondson, dated October 1, 1937, he writes:

"The Monsignor who signed was a Pole, and you will note I put Poland after his name. I realized that a Monsignor's signature would carry considerable weight in Quebec among the Roman Catholics."

The *Welt-Dienst* bulletin of 1939 announced another international anti-semitic conference to be held in Frankfurt in the spring of 1940. By this time, however, the war was on and of course it was not held.



## THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

We have already mentioned that at the various international anti-semitic conferences plans were perfected and techniques discussed for the purpose of developing the international conspiracy against the Jews. These plans were tailored to fit local requirements, but as we analyze the organized stimulation of anti-semitism in nearly every country we can detect certain similarities. Among them are:

1) The creation of the so-called "shirt organizations" which constituted the strong-arm groups and were the leaders in acts of violence and destruction against Jews and their property. The idea of "shirt" organizations did not originate at these conferences. The success of Mussolini's Black Shirts was well known. But these conferences recognized their possibilities and deliberately stimulated and financed their organization. They embraced every color of the rainbow from Pelley's Silver Shirts in the United States, Mosley's Black Shirts in England to the Gold Shirts in Mexico.

2) Another similarity is the identification of the Jews in the respective countries with whatever is nationally unpopular. The Nazis, it will be recalled, blamed the Jews for the economic collapse after the last war, for profiteering and black market operations, and for all the evils resulting from the Versailles Treaty. In England, Belgium, France and elsewhere in Europe where the fear of Communism was uppermost in the minds of the populace the Jews were labeled Communist. This was equally true in the United States and South America. In addition, in the United States the anti-semites who identified themselves with isolationism accused the Jews of being warmongers attempting to drag the country into war for the purpose of rescuing their co-religionists abroad.



3) The dissemination of anti-semitic literature setting forth these charges. The most conspicuous item, which we shall discuss later, was *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*. Ford's *International Jew* was also high on the list. Books accusing the Jews of indulging in ritual murder, and books purporting to quote citations from the Talmud authorizing the Jews to indulge in all sorts of crimes and immoral acts were also widely circulated in every language.

## THE RUSSIAN FASCIST FRONT

In considering the ramifications of the International Anti-Semitic Conspiracy it is necessary to give some attention to the Russian Fascist movement. Although it had an independent existence of its own it was closely linked, as we shall show, with the Nazi Anti-Semitic International from which it received aid, advice and money. The Russian Fascist movement was organized by emigres driven from Russia by the revolution; its activities centered in Harbin, Manchuria, but its operations were world-wide; and the promotion of anti-semitism was an important part of its program.

The two organizations, The Russian Fascist Union and the Russian National Front, were composed of emigres, mostly former Czarist military men, who were permeated with the anti-semitic prejudices of their class and were ready to accept the basic principles of fascist propaganda. The director of the Russian Fascist Union at Harbin was Konstantin V. Rodsaevski, who had residences in Harbin and Shanghai. It published a paper, *Nazia*, which had as its emblem a swastika surmounted by the Russian eagle. In its publications and official pronouncements it claimed affiliation with the leading anti-semitic organizations throughout the world.

The Russian Fascist Union had offices or cells in numerous places including Brisbane and Sidney in Australia;

Poland, Argentina, Paraguay, New Zealand, Lithuania, Finland, Italy, Spain and Egypt; and in the United States in Chicago, New York City, San Francisco and Seattle.

In Argentina the fascist leaders were made honorary members of the Russian Fascist Union. On one occasion the Union held "funeral services" in Buenos Aires in commemoration of the Bolshevik Revolution. Among the chief mourners were representatives of the Spanish Falange, the Civil Legion, the Union of National Argentine Youth, Italian Fascists, the Women's Group of the German NSDAP, of the Social Argentine Party, and representatives of the anti-semitic newspapers *Bandera Argentina* and *Crisol*.

The Russian National Front was composed of veterans' organizations, youth organizations, sport clubs and the like.

Athletic clubs were formed in the various countries. One group was formed in February, 1937, in Brussels and another which inaugurated "The House of Russian Youth" in Paris.

From time to time to consolidate the Union and stimulate its activities conventions were called. The first was in 1931, the second in 1934, the third in 1935, and the fourth in January, 1939.

The first convention, which had a small attendance, met in a conspiratorial atmosphere in Rodsaevski's home in Harbin. At this meeting the Russian Fascist Party was founded. The second congress took the form of a conference, first at Tokyo and Yokohama and then at Harbin. At this meeting a fusion of the Russian Fascist Party with the Pan-Russian organization was decided upon. The two organizations then formed the Pan-Russian Fascist Party.

Representatives of the various countries gathered at Harbin for the fourth congress in 1939. The delegates of the Russian Fascist Union of Europe could not attend

because of the great distance, but they met in advance of the congress at Nuremberg and delegated authority to the head of the Union to represent the Union's interests in Harbin. At the Harbin Congress there were, among others, delegates from the United States, Paraguay, Australia, Lithuania and Finland.

One of the activities that developed from this congress was an anti-semitic exhibition arranged by the Russian Fascist Union of Manchuria. This was a traveling show. A special train and railroad facilities were provided by the Japanese Government. The trip took sixty days, the train stopping at every important station. Attendance ranged from six hundred to several thousand. The exhibition consisted of motion pictures, posters, cartoons, and charts purporting to show a Jewish conspiracy to dominate the world. At every stop literature in large quantities was distributed including *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, books on ritual murder, and books dealing with alleged Jewish Masonic and Communist activities.

As an illustration of how the international conspiracy worked, and particularly how the Russian anti-semitic movement ties up with the anti-semitic movement in other countries, we call attention to the activities of one Boris Toedli, a Swiss citizen who spent much of his life in Russia and Manchuria. Toedli was arrested by the Swiss Government in 1937 charged with espionage activities, and the police discovered some 300 documents and letters indicating the receipt of funds and instructions to stimulate anti-semitism. According to these documents Toedli was listed as official representative of *World Service* in Erfurt. He was designated as the Nazi leader in Berne and was also listed as the deputy leader of the *All Russian Fascist* organization with headquarters in Harbin, Manchuria.

A receipt was found among his papers signed by Toedli acknowledging the receipt of money from Germany "covering the costs of the *Protocols* trial". This refers to the

celebrated trial in Berne, Switzerland, which established the falsity of the *Protocols*.

Among the documents were papers indicating that the Germans financed the activities of the *All Russian* anti-semitic movement in Manchuria and that they issued German visas to the Russian fascists to enable them to travel in the Far East and North America and Europe. Toedli, it will be recalled, was a delegate from Harbin at the International Anti-Semitic Conference at Erfurt in 1937. After his arrest in November, 1937, he succeeded in escaping from Switzerland prior to his trial and was found guilty in absentia.

The fuehrer of the Russian Fascists in the United States was a man by the name of A. Vonsiatsky. In 1942 we came into possession of photostatic copies of correspondence between him and the leader of the Russian Fascist Union. We learned that Vonsiatsky had been in close association with Toedli and that he was instrumental in spreading the doctrines of Fascism and anti-semitism throughout Manchuria.

Vonsiatsky made several trips into Manchuria by way of Japan and he was aided by the Japanese Government, which extended to him the status of diplomat. His correspondence further indicated that during his stay in Manchuria he held numerous conferences with the leaders of the Russian Fascist Union in which members of the staff of the Japanese Army and Japanese Intelligence Service actively participated. We turned over all of this correspondence to the United States Department of Justice and it was part of the evidence that resulted in the conviction of Vonsiatsky for espionage activities. He is now confined in the Federal penitentiary in the United States.

Our investigation disclosed that the activities of the Russian Fascists spread throughout Manchuria and the occupied parts of the Republic of China. They succeeded in consolidating and bringing under their influence scores

of publications printed in China, Manchuria, North and South America, France, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. The Russian Fascists maintained a propaganda institute of learning called the Fascist Academy and among its textbooks used the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* as part of its regular curriculum. The organization had official support and financial subsidies from the Japanese Government. It maintained bureaus in several large cities, and its officials and lecturers made tours through South America advocating anti-semitism and operating under the auspices of the Fascist Party of the Republic of Argentina.

In the territory of Manchuria proper the White Russian anti-semites were divided into two political groups, one known as the Russian Immigration Commission under the leadership of Kislitzen. The Japanese Government granted official status to this commission and it was responsible for numerous outrages that were perpetrated upon Jewish refugees who escaped into that country.

The other, the Russian Fascist Union, consisted of younger people who had grown to manhood since the Russian Revolution. They were fanatically devoted to the Japanese cause, participated in all fascist demonstrations by the Japanese Government, and were used in a secret capacity by the Japanese Intelligence. Like all fascist organizations the principal object of their attack was the Jews, and their activities left a strong trail of anti-semitism in the Far East. As recently as January 2, 1946, W. H. Newton, Far Eastern correspondent of the Scripps-Howard newspaper chain, reported that the Nazis still have influence and are effectively spreading their anti-semitism.

We have shown how the Russian Fascists cooperated with the Nazis in Europe and the Japanese in Asia. Their representative Toedli in Switzerland had Nazi credentials. He was in communication with the representative Vonsiatsky in the United States who in turn worked closely with the Japanese.



Correspondence in our possession indicates that the most active propagandist engaged in coordinating the activities of the international anti-semites was H. H. Beamish of South Africa. We have a number of letters between Beamish and anti-semitic leaders throughout the world. We find that Beamish traveled extensively, discussing program and techniques with the leaders in the countries he visited.

In a letter dated June 12, 1938 to Mr. Schepers, 91 Rue Rodenhach, Bruxelles, Beamish writes:

"From California I visited most of the South American Republics and in all of them got in touch with the leaders of the various movements who realized that Bolshevism is Judaism. In Chile I was in touch with Nachismo which is said to be 60,000 strong and found an excellent movement in the Argentine called Anti-Judea Argentina which is distributing a large number of the *Protocols* in Spanish. I am in touch with most leaders in all countries and help them all I can as long as they name The Enemy. The three movements in Canada have all fused which means that though they maintain their identity they work on one common program."

Another letter from Beamish in England to Arcand in Canada dated June 24, 1938 gives further evidence of the international tie-up. We find Beamish calling Arcand's attention to the activities of persons in various countries and his comments upon them. Concerning South Africa he writes: "At the moment there are only two movements in South Africa namely the South African National Party (L. T. Weichardt) and the South African National Peoples Movement (Chris Havemann). I am doing my utmost to bring these two movements together. I have sent you some of Terreblanche's leaflets." Concerning the United States he writes: "George Deatherage and V. N. Kositsin are



turning out some splendid material and I have only suggested a few minor improvements in their constitution and programme." Concerning Winnipeg, Canada, he writes: "Whitaker seems to be holding his own and am glad to see that he is being violently attacked by the Kosher Winnipeg Free Press which is an excellent sign." Concerning Britain he writes: "John Brown has just founded the British Democratic Party. In his letter to me he asks me to help him. I will certainly help him. His address is John Brown, c/o British Democratic Party, 176 New-bridge Street, Newcastle on Tyne. He says he has rounded up 2000 members in 2 months and should be a man worth cultivating when on the right trail."

Beamish in this same letter to Arcand suggests that he read *I Knew Hitler*, by Kurt Luedecke. Beamish writes: "He (Luedecke) is now an enemy of the Great Cause \* \* \*. He mentions numbers of people I knew when I first met Hitler in 1922 and was sent by Hitler to interview Mussolini when the latter was striving to save Italy from Bolshevism i.e. Judaism and before the march on Rome."

### DISTRIBUTION OF ANTI-SEMITIC PROPAGANDA

At the International Anti-Semitic Conference of Budapest in 1925 one of the three major decisions reached was the creation of a Press Committee to carry on anti-semitic propaganda. There had been a considerable amount of anti-semitic literature published in various countries prior to this time, but dating from the Budapest conference the international distribution became organized. This is evident from the fact that many of the more important items of anti-semitic propaganda were printed simultaneously in a number of languages, and from correspondence in our possession between the Nazi Propaganda Bureau in Erfurt and distributors in various countries. Conspicuous among these items were the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* and Ford's *The International Jew*.

Shortly after the Nazis came into power they established a publication called *World Service* which was printed in a number of languages and distributed widely throughout the world. The headquarters of *World Service* were at Erfurt in Germany and its publication and the organization behind it became the center of world distribution of anti-semitic material. The purpose of this publication was to give world-wide circulation to defamatory matter relating to Jews, thus furnishing ammunition to those who were carrying on the campaign outside of Germany. All the resources of the pseudo-scientific Jewish Institute were at the service of this publication, and items and clippings were mailed in to Erfurt from adherents all over the world. The first issue of *World Service* was published on December 1, 1933 by Ulrich Fleischhauer in Erfurt, Germany. In 1939 headquarters were moved to Frankfort-on-the-Main. Fleischhauer was listed as the publisher from the time of the first issue until September 15, 1939 when A. Schirmer was named publisher.

The first issue of *World Service* appeared in three languages. On January 15, 1936 *World Service* announced six language editions, and by July 1, 1937 the number had risen to eight. These were French, Russian, Hungarian, Polish, German, English, Danish and Spanish. When war broke out the number dropped to six, the Polish and Danish editions having been eliminated. On November 15, 1939 a Dutch edition was added. *World Service* continued to expand, and by February 1, 1940 the number of the editions had risen to ten and included English, German, French, Russian, Hungarian, Spanish, Dutch, Rumanian, Danish and Norwegian. The Swedish edition appeared on June 12, 1940. The last edition of *World Service* that was received in the United States, dated November 1, 1941, carried on its masthead a note that *World Service* was published in eleven languages.

*World Service* devoted itself exclusively to what it termed the Jewish Question. An examination of its pages reveals not only the thoroughness of German research but it indicates clearly the widespread international contacts that *World Service* had. The American edition which we have analyzed contains quotations from all sorts of American publications including obscure newspapers and periodicals having a limited circulation and that could only have been discovered by agents and representatives living in this country. The same is true of the editions in other languages.

Among the services rendered by *World Service* to its readers was the recommendation of anti-semitic books and literature. Whenever a new book appeared in any language which fitted in with *World Service* anti-semitic policy that book would be called to the attention of the reader under the caption of Books Worth Reading.

It is significant that the Nazis recognized the usefulness of bookshops for the distribution of material. These shops were not only centers of distribution of anti-semitic propaganda but they also were headquarters of people involved in these activities. In New York there were such bookshops as the Germaniä and Westermann's, in Los Angeles the Aryan Bookshop, and in London such shops as Hans Preiss's International Book Store. The *World Service* printed on April 15 and on May 1, 1939 the following advertisements: "Knowledge is the first stepping stone to liberty and freedom, Aryan Bookshop, H. Diebel, 634 West 15th Street, Los Angeles, California. If you wish to read uncensored, enlightened literature on the Jewish-Communist situation, write to the above bookstore—truth brings liberty."

These book shops corresponded with each other, exchanging information concerning current developments in the field of anti-semitic literature, and furnishing each other with the names of persons in their respective locali-

ties who might be interested in the cause. They also kept up a continuous correspondence with various propaganda agencies in Germany. We have been able to obtain a considerable number of these letters.

*World Service* was the international guide and handbook for anti-semitic propaganda. In addition vast quantities of literature of all sorts poured out of Germany, translated into many languages. In the various countries a great deal of this scurrilous material was prepared locally and adapted to local needs and prejudices. However, there were certain items which were international in their scope and which to a considerable extent furnished the inspiration and sources for the local material. The principal items of international distribution were the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* and Henry Ford's *International Jew*. Also the accusation of ritual murder was spread and propagated in many ways.

## THE PROTOCOLS

There is no need here to go into the history of this notorious forgery. Books have been written about it and even the anti-semites who used it for their purpose frequently acknowledge that it is of doubtful authenticity. An illustration of this was in the case of Father Coughlin, who reprinted the *Protocols* in his magazine *Social Justice*. Father Coughlin's contention was that the origin of the *Protocols* was unimportant. The significant fact, he said, was that they did constitute a program that the Jews were putting in operation. He wrote in *Social Justice*: "Although Nilus gave no proof for the authenticity of the work and although Jews at various conventions have repudiated the *Protocols* as a forgery, nevertheless the correspondence between the prophecy contained in this book and its fulfillment is too glaring to be set aside or obscured." The article went on to assert: " \* \* \* however, the authors of the *Protocols of the Wise Men of Zion* did outline a

plot and this plot has in part been carried out in our day—the plot against Christian civilization.”

The celebrated trials in Berne, Switzerland, in 1934 and 1935 finally established that the *Protocols* were a crude forgery. An action was brought by the Jews of Switzerland against Theodore Fisher, former Fuehrer of the Swiss National Socialists, and Sylvio Schnell, chief of the National Front of Switzerland, in which it was charged that by circulating the *Protocols* these men had violated a law against circulating improper literature. We have already pointed out that among the papers of Boris Toedli, a Nazi agent, was found evidence demonstrating that the Nazis had financed the defense of the trials.

The *Protocols* were brought to America by several people but their first widespread distribution in the United States was through the medium of Ford's *Dearborn Independent* and later his book *The International Jew*. The translation for Ford was made by Boris Brazol, who was given employment by the Ford Company and who later was sent abroad to contact various persons for the purpose of establishing the authenticity of the *Protocols*.

Brazol was a lawyer in Russia and was one of the prosecutors in the celebrated ritual murder trial of Mendel Beiliss in 1911. He came to the United States where he succeeded in establishing a successful practice as an expert on Russian law. This occupation, however, appears merely to have been a front for his intrigues and other activities. We have in our possession correspondence between Beilish and other anti-semitic leaders and Brazol.

*The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* have been part of the equipment of every anti-semitic propagandist. In a monograph by Professor John S. Curtiss, a noted American historian, called *An Appraisal of the Protocols of Zion*, there is a bibliography showing that the *Protocols* have been translated into nearly every language in the world. There is correspondence which we have between Henry



Allen of California, an active anti-semite, who has a record of serving two terms in prison for forgery, and the leaders of the anti-semitic movement in South America. On November 12, 1937 he writes to Father Tronchese, Guadalupe Church, San Antonio, Texas: "Just received your telegram and I have just telegraphed to our men to meet Pablo." This refers to Pablo Delgado, the Mexican leader of the Gold Shirts, the Mexican anti-semitic fascist organization. In a letter from Beamish to Arcand, dated December 24, 1937, he writes: "This introduces Mr. Henry Allen who expects to shortly visit Montreal. He is, I consider, a key man on the Pacific Coast. I have met few men who know more about the subject than he does. He is very much *au fait* with the Mexican situation."

On April 13, 1939, Allen, who used the alias Rosenthal at times, writes to George Deatherage: "Have just sent Delgado into Sonora incognito. These moves have resulted from the four party conference held in Yuma a few days ago \* \* \*. Delgado has arrived safely at Bacatatee and will get the boys in that part of the country plenty active. He carried with him a plentiful supply of Spanish *Protocols* and literature \* \* \*. I have received three letters from General Iturbe in which he tells me that they are taking the Spanish copy of the *Protocols* and making 5,000 copies of the same." He concludes with: "Last Sunday I spoke before a great meeting at the German House \* \* \*. 600 present of the combined German, Italian, Austrian, Spanish nationalists, and Russian groups \* \* \*. Pandemonium broke loose."

On June 12, 1938, Beamish writes to Mr. Schepers of Brussels, Belgium, in a letter we have already quoted, advising him that Anti-Judean Argentina is distributing large numbers of the *Protocols* in Spanish. In Mexico, due to the activities of Allen and Delgado, hundreds of thousands of the *Protocols* were distributed. After Henry Ford's repudiation of his anti-semitic crusade, which we



will discuss later, his lawyers made efforts to stop the further circulation of *The International Jew* and the *Protocols*, and in 1942 Ford's lawyer, Mr. Capizzi, wrote a letter to the authorities in Mexico protesting against the circulation of these books and urging that their publication be stopped.

However, the distribution of these books had gained such momentum that it had become practically impossible to stop their republication and distribution. At the present time new editions are continually appearing in the United States and South America. For example, in 1945 an anti-semitic agitator by the name of Eugene Flitercraft, head of the so-called National Gentile League in Chicago, reprinted the *Protocols* in the publication of his organization. In the same year Ernest Elmhurst, who was one of the delegates to the Erfurt Conference and who later was one of the defendants in the Sedition Trial in Washington, attempted to reprint an edition of the *Protocols*.

## RITUAL MURDER

Attacks upon the Jews have been conducted on all levels. It is incredible that the fantastic legend that Jews murder Christian children and use the blood for ritual purposes should be believed by anybody in this age, particularly in those Western countries where a fairly high degree of literacy has been attained. Nevertheless the legend continues, books are written about it, and many people believe it.

The story of the kidnapping of the young son of Charles Lindbergh, the famous aviator, is undoubtedly known to everyone. In 1932 someone entered the home of Lindbergh by means of a ladder and stole the child who was sleeping in bed. A few days later the dead body of the little boy was found. A German by the name of Bruno Hauptman, who had had a criminal record in Germany before his immigration into the United States, was subsequently

arrested, his guilt was proven, and he was found guilty and executed.

Nevertheless the Lindbergh case was seized upon by the anti-semites as another opportunity to attack the Jews, and the story was widely circulated that the Lindbergh child had been kidnapped by the Jews for ritual purposes.

An organization was formed in New York by Kurt Mertig and Louis Zahne, called the Committee of 500, which was dedicated to the purpose of establishing that the Lindbergh murder was a Jewish ritual murder. Meetings were held in New York City, and even in this center of sophistication the incredible charge was widely accepted, and large sums of money were raised to help exonerate Hauptman and fasten blame upon the Jews.

In England, Arnold Leese, the leader of the Imperial Fascist League, was arrested in 1936 for seditious libel based upon Leese's accusation that the Jews were guilty of ritual murder. He was acquitted of libel but was found guilty of attempting to effect a public mischief and was sent to prison. When he was released from prison he wrote a book entitled *My Irrelevant Defense*, which included the so-called evidence of ritual murder. In the book he discussed the Lindbergh case among others. This book of Leese's has had a wide circulation. In 1945 it was reprinted in the United States by the Pioneer Press of Chicago. This concern is owned by Homer Maertz, a vicious anti-semitic agitator who has a prison record for anti-semitic disturbances, and who, at the convention of Gerald Smith's America First Party, introduced a resolution demanding the sterilization of all Jews.

In October, 1945, a street meeting was held in one of the outlying districts of New York City by the Christian Front. One of the speakers was Kurt Mertig to whom we have just referred, another was Ernest Elmhurst whose record of Nazi and anti-semitic activities has been mentioned frequently throughout this report, and the third

was Homer Maertz. Maertz in his speech reiterated the charge of ritual murder, and Leese's book was sold to the audience. Upon the demand of our representatives who were present at that meeting, Maertz, Mertig, and Elmhurst were arrested and charged with unlawful assembly. In January, 1946 they were brought to trial in the Court of Special Sessions and found guilty. Judge Curran, one of the Judges in the case, declared:

"I should like to add for the record just the statement of my belief that the reference in Exhibit Five to the Lindbergh Case is one of the most villainous, venomous, trouble inciting and hatred inciting statements that I have ever seen in my life. I have read it carefully twice within the last few minutes. That was in evidence, the distribution of it was testified to; I can't imagine a more dastardly thing to do than to put out in black and white a statement of that sort. For either Jews or Christians it is a terrific gesture against peace and harmony for the United States of America."

As a striking illustration of how these libels achieved international distribution we quote from an article in the July 10, 1936 edition of *Die Waarheid*, the official organ of the Greyshirts of South Africa:

"\* \* \* Now in spite of all Jewish denials, there is clearly authority for the assertion that the Jews, when they can, employ Christian blood for ritual purposes on the occasion of the Feast of Purim. Numerous cases of so-called Jewish ritual murder are recorded in history and it is somewhat difficult to dismiss all these stories as mere malicious fabrication. Furthermore, though it may be a mere coincidence, there are said to occur in different countries an abnormal number of mysterious disappearances of Christians during the weeks preceding the Feast of Purim.

"The Lindbergh baby disappeared 12 days before the Feast of Purim. Is this a mere coincidence? Furthermore, it is stated that when the corpse was discovered on May 12th, its throat was found to have

been cut in such a manner as to suggest that its blood had been drained off just as in the barbarous ceremony of Shehital, the blood of animals for slaughter is drained off before they are finally killed. Assuming this statement is correct, have we here a mere coincidence?"

## THE EFFECTS OF THE CONSPIRACY

It must be apparent to anyone who is familiar with the progress of organized anti-semitism throughout the world that a common pattern and a similarity of technique characterized it in every country. The success of any such movement depends in a large measure upon its financial resources. Once the Nazis took over the conspiracy it then had at its disposal the enormous wealth of an unscrupulous sovereign power. At that point the movement went into high gear.

We will not labor the point that the similarities in technique were the result of an international blueprint, although Nazi literature and post-war revelations concerning the Nazis establishes convincingly that such a plan for the extermination of Jews existed. And we can accept the fact of contagion and imitation as the momentum of the Nazi campaign increased.

The fact remains that in every country we find strong-arm, gangster groups composing the so-called "shirt" organizations. We find an organized effort to place responsibility upon the Jews for whatever ills the country may be suffering. We find widespread distribution of anti-semitic literature. We find concerted attempts to impose political and educational disability upon Jews. And we find the leaders of the anti-semitic movement aligning themselves with the forces of political and religious reaction.

Thus in France the movement is largely identified with clerical, monarchistic, and military factions. Action Française, one of the pioneer organizations, was clerical, royal-

ist and anti-semitic. The Cagoulards and the Camelots du Roi were the gangster organizations. The Croix de Feu, founded by Francois Coty, later succeeded by Colonel de la Roque, was started as a military organization, its membership being limited at first to winners of the Croix de Guerre. This organization with its large membership was not only strongly collaborationist but in the forefront of the anti-semitic crusade.

In England, Oswald Moseley's British Union of Fascists followed closely the Nazi pattern. This was a "shirt" organization, The Black Shirts, and the members marched and strutted in the familiar storm trooper manner. The traditional British respect for law and order prevented them from indulging in the excesses that were committed in other countries, but for the first time in centuries England witnessed anti-semitic demonstrations and outrages.

Another organization was The Imperial Fascist League, headed by Arnold Leese, who went to prison for spreading the lie of Jewish ritual murder. In spite of his conviction Leese, upon his release from prison, published a pamphlet repeating the libels, which he was permitted to circulate without hindrance. Other organizations that might be mentioned were The Britons, headed by H. H. Beannish, the international traveling salesman of anti-semitism; The Anglo-German Fellowship, Nazi inspired and dominated; The Militant Christian Patriots which had as a subsidiary an underground organization called the Nordic League.

These organizations had their publications which were strongly anti-semitic, such as *The Imperial Fascist*, *The Free Press*, *The Black Shirts*, stimulated and financed by Erfurt. Also England was flooded with anti-semitic literature emanating from Germany, and the *Protocols*, of course, were prominent among these publications.



Since these organizations and publications were instruments of Nazi foreign policy, the emphasis in England was on the alleged Jewish-Communist menace.

In Rumania the notorious Iron Guard, headed by the gangster Codreanu, was known as the Green Shirts. Rumania had long been a stronghold of anti-semitism, and the groundwork had been well laid for an intensification of the campaign stimulated by the International Conspiracy. Since the country was already conditioned, the anti-semitic organizations assumed the form of political parties. There were the Christian Fascist Party, headed by Stefan Tartarescu, a Hitler propagandist and the National Peasant Party, headed by the notorious anti-semite Vaida-Voeved, both of which merged into the United Parliamentary Party, formed in 1937 by Professor A. C. Cuza of Jassy, a leader at the conference in Budapest, Octavins Goga of the National Christian Party, and Alexander Vaida-Voeved.

There is no need to recount in detail the tragic story of the Jews in Rumania. Suffice to say that in 1937 Goga came into power for a brief period and the measures imposed upon the Jews by him caused damage that was irreparable.

Poland like Rumania has traditionally been a stronghold of anti-semitism and the organizations there too assumed the form of political parties. The National Democratic Party, known as Endeks, was strongly anti-semitic. The National Radicals, called Narras, was an extremist organization, encouraging riots, assaults and vandalism against the Jews. Its publication *Stafetta* was an imitation of *Der Stuermer*. Two other organizations might be mentioned, The Polish Radical Party and The Camp of National Unity, both of which urged mass emigration of Jews from Poland.

In Poland the anti-semitic movement was supported and encouraged by the Catholic Church, particularly among



the lower orders of clergy. On May 2, 1937, which was proclaimed a day to de-judaize Poland, Catholic homes were decorated with national and religious emblems, and priests urged their parishioners to unite in the fight against the Jews. Anti-semitic demonstrations were launched in the churches by solemn masses against the Jews. Cardinal Hlond issued a pastoral letter in which he warned against "the harmful immoral influence of Jewry".

In Austria as in Poland the rise of anti-semitism received clerical encouragement. And as in the other countries already conditioned to anti-semitism the movement was largely political. This we find in the Christian Social Party under Professor Czermak in the forefront demanding restrictive legislation against Jews. The Anti-Semitenbund, principally composed of National Socialists, became more influential in Austrian affairs as Nazi influence drew closer. Anti-semitic literature in large quantities was distributed by the *Freiheitshund* in Vienna.

Extensive boycotts were organized against Jews in business and the professions, and eventually legislation was adopted virtually excluding Jews from gainful occupations. All this received encouragement from the general press and the Catholic press.

The Catholic publication *Neue Ordnung* in 1936 urged a *numerus clausus*, and later voiced a threat of pogroms if the Jewish question were not settled.

The Catholic clergy throughout Austria made repeated demands for social and economic ostracism of Jews.

In January 1936 there was a mass meeting of Vienna Catholics at which prominent speakers bitterly attacked the Jews. Cardinal Innitzer made a temperate speech, but the other speakers, clergy and laymen, were violently anti-Jewish.

In Canada, following the pattern in democratic countries, the movement took the form of organizations rather than parties. In the Catholic Province of Quebec it was

encouraged by the local clergy. It is necessary merely to name a few of many anti-semitic organizations.

There was the National Socialist Christian Party, later called the National Union Party, of the notorious Adrien Arcand. Its insignia was the swastika. Arcand had a military affiliate in Quebec called *Casques de Haier* (The Steel Helmets). The Blue Shirts of Canada in the maritime provinces and the White Shirts in Toronto were also among the anti-semitic organizations.

There were several others, mostly in the French section of Canada, the Province of Quebec. Although social discrimination against Jews existed in other parts of Canada the general sentiment was hostile to the Nazi brand of anti-semitism.

At the outbreak of the war Adrien Arcand and other fascist leaders were placed in detention camps. They have since been released.

Enough has been said, we think, to indicate the general pattern of the movement. We could also mention The Awakening Magyars, the Nazi Pfeilkreuzler and Hejjos' terroristic Protectors of the Race in Hungary, as well as Weichardt's Greyshirts, The Blackshirts, The South African Fascists in South Africa and others. We should state here that Beamish was elected to Parliament in South Africa on an avowed anti-semitic platform.

The Nazis made a determined effort to stir up anti-semitism in Latin America, particularly in Argentina. Since this country seems to have become one of the last strongholds of fascism it deserves special attention.

Argentina is a striking example of manufactured anti-semitism. Our reports indicate that the populace on the whole has been friendly to Jews. The antagonism that has increased ominously in recent years was fomented by a succession of reactionary governments and military officers, influenced and inspired by the Nazis.

We find in Argentina the same pattern as elsewhere: a powerful cell of the Nazi Party with German agents operating behind the scenes; a fascist military organization, The Argentine Legion, stirring up riots and assaults that at times reached the proportion of pogroms; various anti-semitic societies such as Anti-Semitic Action, Social Party of Restoration, Nationalist Youth Alliance and General Confederation of Labor; and an inspired, strongly anti-Jewish press.

As in all the countries we have discussed there was a steady stream of scurrilous literature. The *Protocols* had a particularly large distribution in Argentina.

At the present time the fate of the Jews in Argentina is tied up with the political situation. The beginning of the presidential campaign in 1945 was accompanied by an outbreak against the Jews of unprecedented violence. If Peron should be successful in the approaching election the situation of the Jews in Argentina will be precarious indeed.

We hope that we have made it clear in what has been said thus far that an International Anti-Semitic Conspiracy existed, having for its purpose the extermination of the Jews. The working of the conspiracy had its necessary variations in different countries, but the basic techniques were identical. Hitlerism vivified it, but the groundwork for Hitler's anti-semitic program was laid in the early days of the conspiracy, and it was this that made Hitler's task easier.

The existence of this international conspiracy was eloquently testified to in a speech made in New York City on February 3, 1946, by O. John Rogge, Assistant Attorney General of the United States. Mr. Rogge said:

"The members of the anti-democratic movement in this country were part and parcel of an international movement. The international movement includes Nazis and Fascists in many different countries all over the

world. It included Adolf Hitler, Alfred Rosenberg, Rudolf Hess, Joachim Von Ribbentrop, Paul Joseph Goebbels, propaganda minister, Ernest Wilhelm Bohle, head of the Foreign Organization (A. O.) of the Nazi Party, Herbert Von Strempel, one of the secretaries of the German Embassy in Washington, Ulrich Von Gienanth, another secretary of the German Embassy in Washington and head of the Gestapo in this country. K. O. Bertling, Berlin, Director of the Amerika Institut, Earl Haushofer, of Berlin, Chief of the League for Germandom Abroad (V. D. A.), Ulrich Fleischhauer, A. Schirmer, and Johannes Klapproth of World Service, Theodor Kessemeier of Hamburg, head of the Fichte Bund, Karl Stroelin of the German Foreign Institute (D. A. I.), Julius Streicher, and other Nazis; both in and out of Germany. It included Oswald Mosely and his British Union of Fascists and Arnold S. Leese and the Imperial Fascist League in England; Henry Hamilton Beamish of England and South Africa; A. N. Field of New Zealand; Adrién Arcand of Canada; Vidkun Quisling of Norway; Anton Mussert of Holland; Fritz Clausen of Denmark; the Gold Shirts of Mexico; and Fascists in Italy, Spain, Portugal, Rumania, France, Belgium, Japan, and Manchuria (Manchukuo). The movement is as international in scale as Communism. Members of the movement in this country were in touch with members here and with members throughout the world \* \* \*."

The important point that must never be forgotten is that *the plot nearly succeeded*. If there is anyone left who can view the problem with complacency let him ponder on how close the conspiracy to exterminate the Jews came to success.

It is in order to prevent a recurrence of the danger we have just passed through that we must study and analyze the constituent facts of the conspiracy. That is the purpose of this presentation.



## PART TWO

### ORGANIZED ANTI-SEMITISM IN THE UNITED STATES

We have shown how the international network spread out into every country in the world. It has been reliably estimated that the Nazis spent about 250 million a year for propaganda purposes and a very large part of that was spent in the United States. The Nazi propaganda was directed primarily toward splitting the United States into hostile factions in order to keep it out of the war which recent disclosures have shown was planned from the very beginning by Hitler. Their most obvious and effective weapon was the one they were successfully using in Europe.

There had always been social discrimination of a mild sort against Jews in the United States. They were excluded from certain hotels, clubs and resorts, but this sort of discrimination was not serious and very few intelligent Jews paid any attention to it. It may be that this was a mistake. Even mild social anti-semitism contains the germs of the more acute type and should be opposed at its inception.

The American people had also been conditioned to intolerance and bigotry by generations of anti-Catholic activity. It is curious that the attacks against Catholics during the A. P. A. and Know-Nothing Movements during the last century differed very slightly from the accusations recently directed against Jews. The Catholics were accused of being unassimilable aliens who could not be loyal Americans on account of their divided allegiance. The Irish immigrants were assailed as refugees who were coming here to take jobs away from loyal Americans. Fantastic accusations were made against the Catholics because of



alleged sex practices, somewhat analogous to the white slavery charges and ritual murder charges that are directed against Jews.

Although Know-Nothingism evaporated as a political force it left behind it, as such movements invariably do, a residue of bigotry and a credulous receptivity to hate propaganda. Throughout the Southern States and the so-called Bible-belt, the regions of the United States where the standard of literacy is lowest, and where the thinking is dominated by a primitive religious fundamentalism, these feelings were kept alive as was forceably illustrated during the campaign of Al Smith for President in 1928, when anti-Catholic feeling rose to an unprecedented pitch.

During the '80's and '90's there was a large Jewish immigration into the United States from Russia, Poland and the Eastern European countries. Up to that time there had been little organized hostility to Jews. It was natural, however, that the wave of Jewish immigration would result in a deflection of the anti-Catholic bigotry to the new arrivals with their foreign manners and customs. The Catholics continued, nevertheless, to be regarded as the major enemy. The Ku Klux Klan, which was revived in 1915 by a man named William Joseph Simmons of Atlanta, Georgia, directed its campaign against Catholics, Negroes and Jews; however, the Jews at that time were looked upon as relatively unimportant. As late as 1925 Dr. Evans, who was Simmons' successor, said of the Jew that "The Klan considers him a far smaller problem \* \* \*. He is confined to a few small cities and is no problem at all to the rest of the country."

Nevertheless, there were active forces at work conditioning the susceptible proportion of the American people to antipathy toward the Jews. Colonel Tom Watson, a loud-mouthed, ranting Georgian demagogue, for a number of years had been carrying on a violent anti-Catholic campaign. He was a member of Congress during the session

of 1891 to 1893, he was the Vice-Présidential candidate of the Populist Party in 1896 and eight years later was candidate for President. He later became United States Senator from Georgia. He was the publisher of a weekly called at first *The Jeffersonian* and later named *Watson's Magazine*. In 1913, without abandoning his attacks against the Catholics, he launched an equally vicious crusade of vituperation against the Jews. One of the causes of this was the celebrated Leo Frank case which attracted widespread attention throughout the United States and may be regarded as the beginning of intensified hostility against Jews.

Frank was a Jew and a Northerner but had moved to Atlanta, Georgia, where he became part owner and manager of a pencil factory at Marietta. On April 27, 1913 the dead body of Mary Phagan, a 14-year-old girl, was found in the cellar of his factory. Before dying she managed to scribble two notes, one of which charged an unnamed Negro with having assaulted her. Leo Frank and one Newt Lee were arrested but Lee was released and the charge of murder was confined to Frank. It is unnecessary to go into details of the Frank case except to state that the evidence clearly indicated his innocence. There were disturbances and widespread agitation in Georgia, and anti-Jewish feeling ran high. Frank was found guilty. While he was being held in jail a mob broke in and dragged him out and lynched him.

As we have said, anti-Jewish feeling ran high during the Frank case and the leader in whipping it up was Tom Watson. Even after Frank's lynching he continued his attacks upon Frank and upon the Jews. He was one of the first in America to revive the ancient charge of ritual murder. In spite of the fact that the intelligent press of the country and even his own state resented his antics, he was elected to the United States Senate in 1920, and when he died in 1922 he was lauded by his fellow

Senators and Congressmen. The significance of Watson is that he was not only the first of a type of ranting anti-semitic demagogue with which we have become only too familiar in recent years, but he was the first to inject scurrilous anti-semitism into the records of the United States Congress.

The second and even more potent factor in conditioning the American people to anti-semitism was the astonishing and unexplained entry of Henry Ford into the field of anti-semitic propaganda in 1920. Ford was one of the richest men in the world, if not the richest at that time. He brought to the campaign a dangerous combination of ignorance and tremendous wealth. The instrument of his anti-Jewish campaign was a weekly newspaper owned and published by him called *The Dearborn Independent*. At its peak its circulation was over 700,000.

*The Dearborn Independent* in 1920 ran a series of articles attacking the Jews and raking up every threadbare accusation that had ever been directed against them. Twenty of these articles were reprinted November, 1920 by Ford in a book entitled *The International Jew—the World's Problem*. This book had an enormous circulation in this country and abroad and was translated into many languages. It subsequently became the Nazi bible of anti-semitism. It derived added prestige from the fact that Ford was universally regarded as a symbol of American success and an embodiment of the homespun virtues that are supposed to achieve that kind of success.

The principal foundation of the Ford articles was the *Protocols of the Wise Men of Zion* which we have discussed heretofore. Article after article in the *Dearborn Independent* was devoted to a discussion of this fantastic document although no investigation was made as to its accuracy. At length, Henry Ford came to the conclusion that he had made a colossal blunder and on June 10, 1927 he wrote a letter apologizing to the Jews for the harm he

had done to them and retracting all of the accusations that were made in the *International Jew*.

Ford's letter was written to Earl J. Davis of Detroit and a copy was sent to Louis Marshall, president of the American Jewish Committee. He said in the letter: "I frankly confess that I have been greatly shocked as a result of my study and examination of the files of the *Dearborn Independent* and the *International Jew*. I deem it my duty as an honorable man to make amends for the wrong done to the Jews as fellow-men and brothers, by asking their forgiveness for the harm I have unintentionally committed by retracting as far as lies within my power the offensive charges laid at their door by these publications, and by giving them unqualified assurance that henceforth they may look to me for friendship and good will." In spite of this retraction and abject apology the damage was done. The *International Jew* and the *Protocols of the Wise Men of Zion*, backed by Ford's wealth and prestige, covered the globe.

We have heretofore stated that the Nazis spent more than 250 million a year for overseas propaganda and that the greatest part of this sum was spent in the United States. This money was spent in many ways. Subsidies were granted to many fascist organizations, and the formation of such organizations was stimulated by the German propaganda machine. The center of this movement was an attache of the German Embassy in Washington, Baron Von Gienanth. Von Gienanth, although holding a subordinate position in the Embassy, was the Nazi Party representative there, and under Nazi organizational discipline he had the real power, and everyone including the Ambassador was subject to his orders.

The network spread out to the various consulates throughout the United States, and the German consuls and diplomatic representatives acted as paymasters in pro-

moting the dissemination of anti-semitic material and in the formation of anti-semitic organizations.

One of the items of propaganda put out by the German Library of Information was a magazine called *Facts in Review*. This was mailed to editors, clergymen and leaders of public opinion throughout the United States. Our experience with *Facts in Review* furnishes an interesting illustration of how this form of attack can be coped with. We managed to obtain the entire mailing list of the magazine, about one hundred thousand names. We then prepared a similar periodical which we called *Facts Versus Fiction* in which the Nazi lies and libels were refuted, and this was mailed to the entire mailing list of *Facts in Review*. We have reason to believe that this did much to minimize the harm that was being attempted.

Following the techniques that had been agreed upon at the Budapest Conference of 1925, many of the subversive organizations developed into semi-military groups, so-called "shirt" organizations modeling themselves upon the practices that were proving successful in Germany.

Among the groups that came into existence in this country was the Silver Shirt League launched by William Dudley Pelley on January 31, 1933, the day after Hitler came into power. Pelley, who had had a varied career as a writer and as a quasi-mystic, declared that the idea of the Silver Shirts came to him in the form of a revelation. The same revelation had declared to him that Hitler was destined to become the leader of a new movement that would save the world from various menaces that were threatening it. According to the Nazi pattern, the Pelley Silver Shirts wore military uniforms, and Pelley, who styled himself Chief, which is a translation of the German "Fuehrer", wore a uniform with a Sam Browne belt and carried pistols in holsters at his side.

These fascist organizations attempted to adapt their program and activities to American prejudices, and like



all such groups endeavored to make a strong appeal to patriotism. Thus we find another organization calling itself The Order of '76, headed by a man named Royal Scott Gulden, and others bearing such patriotic names as American Defenders, The American Vindicators and American Guards. These organizations and a number of others like them were unreservedly anti-semitic. Their meetings and their publications revived and circulated all of the lies and accusations which had been directed against the Jews.

Pelley as a writer was particularly prolific. He published several anti-semitic magazines—*Pelley's Weekly*, *Roll Call*, *Liberation* and finally *The Galilean*. This last was declared unmailable by the Post Office Department in March, 1943, after the entry of the United States into the war. Pelley, it might be stated here, was indicted for sedition and was found guilty and sentenced to fifteen years in prison which he is now serving.

All of these movements, as we have stated, were stimulated and encouraged by the Nazi agents in the United States. Specific evidence of this came into our possession a few years ago and was turned over to the Department of Justice of the United States for use in their prosecutions. It was reported to us that a German by the name of Baron George Von Stein, who was living in an expensive apartment on Park Avenue in New York City and entertaining lavishly, was actively engaged in contacting native fascist leaders and in promoting the formation of anti-semitic organizations. Baron Von Stein left the United States abruptly, and after his hurried departure some of his papers came into our possession including his diary for the year 1933. This diary indicated that Baron Von Stein was having frequent meetings with well-known fascist leaders, including Royal Scott Gulden of the Order of '76, and Colonel Emerson, an organizer of German societies, and who was later discovered to be a Nazi agent, and others.

On May 29, 1933, Congressman Louis T. McFadden of Pennsylvania, delivered a tirade against the Jews on the floor of the House of Representatives of the United States. This was a notable occurrence because it was the first time since Tom Watson passed out of the picture that an anti-Jewish speech had been made in Congress. Thereafter he made a number of other anti-semitic speeches. When we began to study the Von Stein diary we found that each one of these speeches had been delivered a day or two after a meeting between Stein and McFadden.

Among the Von Stein papers was correspondence from Germany stating that Goebbels was dissatisfied with the progress the anti-semitic campaign was making in the United States and directing Stein to urge his agents on to renewed activity. There was also, in the papers, evidence that a Nazi agent was occupying a position of trust in one of the large war plants. This information was at once given to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Army Intelligence. We also found blueprints and diagrams of a submarine listening device designed by Krupps in Germany which were turned over to our Naval Intelligence Division.

Another semi-military organization that became active about this time was the Knights of the White Camellia, headed by George Deatherage. Testifying before a Congressional Committee, Deatherage stated that the aim of his organization was to fight "Jewish communism".

In a letter dated June 2, 1937, written by George Deatherage on the stationery of the Knights of the White Camellia to Edward James Smythe, he states:

"Now another thing, we are not going to lick this thing without the army and the vets. \* \* \* A certain officer in high command is slated for the top kick when it breaks. \* \* \* I know that they have an organization now in Washington known as The Patriot Guard headed by Captain Edward Page Gaston address 1333

16th Street, N. W. in which they are enrolling R. O. A. (Reserve Officers Association) R. O. T. C. (Reserve Officers Training Corps) and other organizations. \* \* \* It means we can retain our present organizations as a propaganda unit, but see that our members belong to the Guard (The Patriot Guard) under single unified command. \* \* \* Propaganda is right and necessary—but we have got to fight in the trenches before we are thru. I understand that there are several Generals and other officers of high rank in the Guard. \* \* \* This plan means that we have an organization such as they have in Germany—the S. A. and S. S. troops plus the propaganda bureau.”

In addition to the “shirt” organizations, active anti-semitic activity developed in a certain section of the Fundamentalist Protestant groups, and the most notorious leader of these was the Reverend Gerald B. Winrod of Wichita, Kansas. Winrod traveled around the country addressing religious revival meetings and spreading the poison of hate against Jews. In addition, he published a magazine called *The Defender* which had a wide circulation and was effective in spreading anti-semitism in regions of the United States that could not otherwise be reached.

The Nazis, as a part of their campaign, from time to time would invite anti-semites or persons whom they considered to be promising material to Germany for indoctrination courses. These trips were financed by the Germans. The visitors were entertained lavishly and returned to the United States and elsewhere not only filled with Nazi doctrine, but in many instances substantially subsidized. This was what happened to Gerald Winrod.

One of the active Nazi propagandists at this time was Doctor Otto H. Vollbehr, a dealer in rare books. He had sold a Gutenberg Bible to the Library of Congress and was using this money to finance Nazi activities in the United States. We have a statement from a man who was in a hotel room in San Francisco with Vollbehr and Winrod

when arrangements were made for Winrod's trip to Germany. Needless to say, the Nazis paid all the expenses. In 1935 Winrod went to Germany, where he met the anti-semitic leaders. Up to that time his finances had been in a rather precarious condition. Upon his return, according to evidence in our possession, he was amply equipped with money which enabled him to continue his operations. He never revealed the source of these funds.

Winrod reprinted the *Protocols* in his magazine, and he published a book entitled *The Hidden Hand* which was advertised as follows: "Many of the world's greatest forces believe that civilization is in the grip of an international conspiracy that is designed to overthrow all governments. This book discusses the *Protocols* from the angle of prophecy". It should be pointed out that before Winrod came under Nazi influence and was drawn into the International Jewish Conspiracy he had been actively anti-Catholic. However, like so many of his colleagues, he soon discovered that anti-semitism was a more profitable racket. Although he did not entirely discontinue his anti-Catholic campaign, his emphasis was conspicuously upon the Jews after his return from Germany.

The Ku Klux Klan, which, as we have already pointed out, subsided into political impotence in the 1920's, in the 1930's attempted to revive its prestige by espousing anti-semitism, and an alliance was formed between the Klan and some of the most active anti-semitic groups.

In August, 1940, certain groups of the Ku Klux Klan held a joint meeting with the German-American Bund at what they called "an Americanism meeting" at the Bund camp, Camp Nordland, Andover, New Jersey. A fiery cross was burned and the Bund swastikas were conspicuously displayed in conjunction with it. The Nazis with their storm troopers' uniforms paraded with the Klan in their nightshirts. The publicity resulting from this meet-

ing did much to expose to the American people the sinister alliance that was being formed.

The spread of anti-semitism was going according to plan. The methods and techniques that had been discussed at the Erfurt conference in 1937 and that had been brought back to this country by the delegates were put into operation through the various shirt organizations, the Fundamentalists clergy of the Winrod type, and other native fascist agitators. The poison was seeping into the hinterland of the United States.

However, there was one group that had not yet been seriously affected, and that was the Catholics. There had been, during the greater part of the history of the United States, a traditional friendship between the Jews and Catholics. In the early part of the 19th century the Catholics had been the victims of bigotry and intolerance. Like the Jews, they had for the most part settled in large urban areas. In most big cities the Irish Catholics were the dominant political power, and this power was frequently achieved and held by a close alliance with their Jewish neighbors.

The breach in this traditional Catholic-Jewish friendship was the direct result of the activities of Father Charles E. Coughlin of Royal Oak, Michigan. Father Coughlin was the pastor of a small parish outside of Detroit. In 1936 he began a series of radio addresses and made the discovery that he was an effective and persuasive broadcaster. In the early days his speeches were all of an innocuous nature; letters began pouring in praising him and he soon acquired a large following. Gradually he drifted into politics and in 1932 he was strongly advocating the election of President Roosevelt. He continued to support Roosevelt until 1936, when he switched sharply and began to make violent attacks against the President.

What caused him to adopt anti-semitism is not clear, but it might be pointed out here that during the greater part



of President Roosevelt's administration the anti-semites hated him and attacked him as violently as they did the Jews. Every opponent of Roosevelt and the New Deal was not, of course, anti-semitic, but it is safe to say that nearly every anti-semite was anti-Roosevelt.

At any rate, about 1938 Father Coughlin's speeches began to take on an anti-semitic tinge and each week his radio message became increasingly violent and intemperate. Coughlin also published a weekly magazine called *Social Justice* which gradually developed into one of the most pernicious anti-semitic sheets published in America.

At length his attacks upon the Jews reached such point that the owner of the radio broadcasting station WMCA in New York City refused to permit Coughlin's broadcasts on his station unless the script was submitted in advance. This Coughlin refused to do, and his broadcasts were summarily discontinued by the station.

By this time Father Coughlin had built up an enormous following throughout the country and was looked upon by Protestant anti-semites as well as Catholics as the patron saint of their movement. A mass meeting was held in New York City to protest against the removal of Father Coughlin from the air. This meeting was addressed by several Protestant anti-semitic leaders as well as several Catholic priests. At the conclusion of the meeting it was agreed that Station WMCA should be picketed as a protest. The following Sunday 5,000 persons picketed on Broadway in front of Station WMCA. They carried banners, some of which contained anti-semitic slogans, and as they marched they chanted anti-semitic remarks. This picket line continued several months.

The next move was to put pressure upon the business concerns that advertised over WMCA, and picket lines were formed in front of a number of stores throughout the City. These pickets also carried anti-semitic banners and uttered anti-semitic remarks. In addition to all this, *Social Jus-*

tice, Father Coughlin's magazine, was sold on the streets of New York, and the vendors of his paper combined selling the magazine with insulting and in some instances attacking the Jewish passers by.

Father Coughlin had been urging his followers to form a secret semi-military organization. An organization called the Christian Front that had been started in New York City was taken over by the Coughlinites and, adopting the techniques that had been found effective in other countries, it developed into a dangerous strong-arm group. Street meetings were held under its auspices and each night, fights, scuffles, and sometimes riots ensued.

It was discovered by the Federal authorities that members of this Christian Front were meeting secretly and holding military drills. They obtained a quantity of guns some of which had been stolen from the National Guard. An indictment was filed which resulted in an acquittal of most of the defendants. In spite of this the trial convinced most people that the Christian Front was organizing into a semi-military body with dangerous possibilities.

One of the early followers of Father Coughlin was a young man by the name of Joseph E. McWilliams, who felt that the tactics of the Christian Front were not sufficiently extreme for him, so he broke away and formed his own group which he called The Christian Mobilizers. The Mobilizers attracted to it many Coughlinites and they too began to hold street meetings about the City of New York, preaching hate against the Jews in a language the violence of which was equaled only by that of the Nazi agitators themselves. The McWilliams crowd formed an alliance with the German-American Bund and on a number of occasions they held joint meetings. McWilliams spoke at a Bund rally at Camp Nordland, New Jersey, where the Nazi salute was given and the place was lavishly decorated with swastikas.

By the beginning of 1939, organized anti-semitism in the United States may be deemed to have reached its peak. About eighty street meetings were held each week on the streets of New York City at which the aggregate audience was estimated to be well over twenty thousand. There was no longer any attempt at restraint or moderation of language. Speakers demanded that Jews should be hung from lampposts and that Jews' blood should flow in the streets of New York. Each night there were street fights and arrests. Some of the more violent agitators were convicted of disorderly conduct and sent to prison to serve short terms. Among them was Joe McWilliams.

These outrages were tolerated in the City of New York because the City Administration felt that the issue of freedom of speech was involved. However, at the outbreak of war, Mayor LaGuardia decided that an emergency existed and ordered that no street meetings should be held thereafter.

This ended the street meetings, but the Christian Front and the Mobilizers continued to meet indoors to carry on their anti-semitic agitation.

It is pertinent here to mention some of the measures taken by us to handle this situation. We were able to obtain each day a list of all the street meetings and when and where they were to be held. To each meeting we sent several intelligent observers as well as a skilled stenographer who took down the speeches verbatim.

We organized a panel of about a hundred lawyers who were available on call each night, and we also set up a central clearing station through which the witnesses could immediately communicate with the lawyers when the occasion required it. We prepared an exhaustive legal brief which set forth clearly the limits beyond which free speech becomes criminal conduct. Copies of these briefs were given to our panel of lawyers as well as to the public prosecutors and the judges before whom the cases came. We

had several conferences with high officials in the Police Department who issued instructions to the officers at the meetings to cooperate with us.

Whenever a speaker said something that appeared to be in violation of the law our representative would notify a police officer and demand his arrest. We had agreed that the speaker should be allowed to finish his speech so as to prevent disorders. At the conclusion of the speech the offender would be arrested; our witnesses would accompany them to the police station; and one of our lawyers, who would be promptly informed, would hurry down to present the case.

As a result of this plan there were during a six months' period when the agitation was at its height one hundred and twelve convictions. In many cases prison sentences were imposed.

Father Coughlin, as one might have expected from the trend of his propaganda, became an ardent defender of Hitler and Mussolini, and his radio speeches and the pages of *Social Justice* were devoted to attacks upon the British as well as the Jews. The most shocking outrages of the Nazis were condoned in *Social Justice*, and every attempt on the part of the Roosevelt administration to arouse the American public to the impending danger was bitterly attacked.

At length, as we came closer to the war, the Catholic hierarchy in this country that had been suffering embarrassment from Coughlin's activities, came to the conclusion that his activities should be terminated, and his Bishop directed him to discontinue his radio campaign in September, 1940. *Social Justice*, however, continued until shortly after the war started when it was forbidden mailing privileges by the Post Office Department as seditious. As a result of this, publication of the magazine was discontinued and Father Coughlin has remained silent ever since.

Various estimates have been made as to the membership of the Christian Front. At the trial of the Christian Fronters on April 5, 1940 a witness indicated that, from data given to him, the Christian Front membership was already three hundred thousand and was growing by leaps and bounds. Whether this figure is authentic or not we don't know, but we do know that a substantial portion of the Police Department in New York City were members of the organization, and that it had a large membership in the Fire Department and other branches of the municipality. The actual membership of the Christian Front, however, gives no index to the actual following of Father Coughlin for his broadcast was heard over many stations each Sunday reaching millions of listeners. We have spoken particularly of Christian Front activity in New York City, but the organization had a large membership throughout the country, particularly in Boston and Philadelphia.

Before we leave the subject of Father Coughlin and the Christian Front we wish to state that Coughlinism by no means represented Catholic opinion in the United States. It has been mentioned because it was an important chapter in the history of anti-semitism in the United States, and because it demonstrates how a breach could be made into a group that had been traditionally friendly to the Jews.

Coughlin's activities were deeply resented by many prominent Catholic clergymen and laymen, and they denounced him publicly and emphatically. Mr. Frank Hogan, President of the American Bar Association and a noted Catholic layman, replied to Coughlin's scurrilities on a nation-wide radio hookup; Governor Alfred E. Smith, one of our great statesmen, the Democratic candidate for President of the United States in 1928 and America's leading Catholic layman, condemned Coughlin with his characteristic vigor. Cardinal Mundelein of Chicago in a public statement joined in the repudiation of Coughlin and Coughlinism.



Since that time much progress has been made toward establishing a more cordial relationship between Catholics and Jews. In the forefront of the movement to promote interfaith amity has been Judge Joseph M. Proskauer, President of the American Jewish Committee, who has worked in friendly collaboration with Archbishop (now Cardinal designate) Spellman of New York. Archbishop Francis J. Spellman in speeches, radio addresses and magazine articles has been a valiant fighter against bigotry and has been outspoken in his condemnation of anti-semitism. Other distinguished clerics who have added their strength to the fight are Archbishop Edward Mooney (Cardinal designate) of Detroit, who recently delivered a magnificent talk before the Detroit Jewish Community Council, and Archbishop Samuel A. Stritch (Cardinal designate) of Chicago, who on many occasions has shown himself to be a valuable friend.

For several years prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor, public opinion was divided in the United States concerning the war. This division of opinion was due in great measure to the effectiveness of the Nazi propaganda. The native Fascist groups, as we have pointed out, were stimulated by the Nazis and to a considerable extent subsidized by them. Their anti-semitic campaign was a demonstration of the well-known Nazi technique of divide and conquer. Many who were opposed for whatever reason to the United States entering the war were receptive to the charge that the Jews were trying to drag the country into war to rescue their oppressed co-religionists abroad.

The result of all this was that in addition to the organized agitators, the thinking of many honest well-meaning thousands became clouded and confused, and isolationism versus interventionism became the vital issue of the day. An organization was formed called America First which was dedicated to keeping America out of the war. This organization in the beginning included in its leadership and

membership a number of honest, well-meaning men. But the Nazis quickly realized the propaganda possibilities of the movement, and America First soon became a haven for anti-semites. Since the Bund, Silver Shirts, Christian Front, and similar organizations were becoming increasingly discredited, their members took refuge in America First, and these subversive elements rapidly became the dominant power in it. It was not long before we realized that a number of America First chapters had become potent anti-semitic organizations.

During our investigation into the activities of America First we learned that each week a man called at the office of the America First New York City chapter and handed over several thousand dollars in cash together with a list of the alleged contributors of that money. This list came into our possession; we made an investigation of the supposed donors and discovered that all the names were fictitious. We then learned that the mysterious person who made those weekly contributions to America First was a Nazi agent, and that his roommate had been one of the defendants in the espionage trial that had taken place shortly before in Brooklyn. This information was, of course, turned over to governmental authorities. It was fairly evident from this that America First which started out as a patriotic organization had become another Nazi subsidiary.

America First soon began to develop into the most threatening anti-semitic organization that we had yet been confronted with, because, unlike the other groups that drew their leadership from the less reputable strata of society, many of the isolationist leaders who either belonged to the America First or endorsed its principles were persons of importance, including several members of the United States Senate. This gave the subversives who had infiltrated into the organization an ostensible respectability that they had theretofore not been able to achieve. Al-

though the isolationism debate had begun on a fairly sane plane it was inevitable that anti-semitism should soon become a part of its ideology. The climax of this and, we might add, the climax of organized anti-semitic agitation in America, was reached at an America First Rally at Des Moines, Iowa, on May 11, 1941 when Charles A. Lindbergh accused the Jews, the British, and the Roosevelt administration of attempting to drag the United States into war.

Lindbergh for a number of years had been a national hero. He had made a visit to Germany a few years before, where he had been entertained by the Nazis, and had come away deeply impressed with Nazi efficiency and Nazi philosophy. He had accepted a decoration from Marshal Goering which, it should be mentioned in passing, he has never returned or repudiated. His wife, Anne Morrow Lindbergh, a daughter of former United States Senator Dwight Morrow of New Jersey, had written a book called *The Wave of the Future*, which was a subtle apology for the Nazi philosophy. The injection of Lindbergh into the field of anti-semitic activity constituted a serious threat because of his prestige.

The Lindbergh attack upon the Jews aroused widespread resentment throughout the country and leaders in all walks of life denounced him. Even President Roosevelt took cognizance of the situation and when it became evident that Lindbergh's isolationist and anti-preparedness speeches were creating an obstacle to our preparing for war, under a barrage of criticism he resigned his commission as Colonel in the United States Army Reserve.

With the entry of the United States into the war organized anti-semitism temporarily ceased. The agitators who had been outspoken in their approval of the Nazis and their condemnation of our Allies, now realized that a continuation of their activities would be considered disloyal under war conditions. Moreover, wartime legislation against sedition and interference with the morale of the

Armed Forces made it dangerous for them to carry on their agitation. Another factor that caused overt anti-semitism to subside was that as the United States became geared to war a large percentage of the membership of the subversive organizations went either into the Armed Forces or munitions plants and were, for the time being, immobilized.

The Government intensified its investigative program which also put a damper upon subversive activities. The FBI which had heretofore been operating with a small force of men was greatly enlarged, and both Army and Navy Intelligence began to concern themselves with subversive activities. As a result of this intensified activity in the governmental agencies William Dudley Pelley, as we have already stated, was indicted and sent to prison for fifteen years; George Sylvester Vierick, a native-born American who had been a German agent in the first World War and who continued as a German agent during the intervening years, was tried and convicted for failing to register as a foreign agent; Fritz Kuhn, the Fuehrer of the German American Bund, was sent to prison for embezzlement; and Vonsiatsky the Russian Fascist leader was sent to prison for espionage. On the Pacific coast two of the leading anti-semitic agitators, Noble and Jones, were found guilty and sent to prison. The Nazi diplomatic representatives who directed anti-semitic propaganda in the United States were returned to Germany, and the unofficial German agents were put in concentration camps.

One consequence of the intensive investigation made by the Government into subversive activity was an indictment filed in the Federal Court charging thirty defendants with sedition. The list of these defendants constituted a Who's Who of anti-semitism in the United States. Among them were Gerald Winrod, Lawrence Dennis, Elizabeth Dilling, George Deatherage and a number of lesser fry.



The case finally came to trial in April, 1944 before Federal Judge Eicher in Washington. The prosecutor was Assistant Attorney General O. John Rogge. Mr. Rogge had spent three years in the preparation of this case, and the evidence he assembled disclosed conclusively the existence of a conspiracy between the various defendants and the Nazis in Germany. Hitler, Goering, and Goebbels were named as co-conspirators in the indictment. The case dragged on for several months and terminated in a mistrial owing to the death of Judge Eicher. It has not since been resumed but it has helped to convince the American public of the existence of this conspiracy.

We have spoken of the early anti-semitic tirades of Senator Tom Watson in the United States Senate and the later attacks upon the Jews by Congressman McFadden of Pennsylvania. Happily these were isolated instances, and the bigotry expressed by these men was not only resented by the public but it brought forth condemnation and criticism from their congressional colleagues. However, as anti-semitic poison spread wider and wider, the American public became, if not more tolerant of anti-semitism, at least aware of the existence of an acute Jewish problem and, perhaps, somewhat habituated to it. An anti-semitic article by a Jewish writer named Milton Mayer appeared in the pages of the respectable *Saturday Evening Post*, and Albert J. Nock, a distinguished author, wrote an article in the *Atlantic Monthly* declaring that the Jews were an oriental, unassimilable race, and that any marriage between a Jew and a Gentile was a form of miscegenation.

Anti-semitic remarks became more frequent on the floor of Congress, and it was an indication of the change in the popular temper that they no longer evoked the widespread denunciation that had been caused by the Watson and McFadden speeches. Jacob Thorkelson, a Congressman from Montana, was the most vicious and outspoken. He not only attacked the Jews upon the floor of Congress but



be inserted into the Congressional Record Nazi propaganda which received a widespread distribution under the congressional frank. He was aided and abetted by others. It was revealed during some of the wartime trials that these anti-semitic speeches were sent by some Congressmen in bulk together with franked envelopes to various anti-semitic organizations and distributed by these organizations to their mailing lists. Congressional attacks upon Jews still continue. The most scurrilous of these emanate from Congressman John Rankin and Senator Bilbo of Mississippi.

There have been repeated attempts on the part of anti-semitic organizations to form a national body combining all groups. The difficulty has been in the past the problem of finding a leader who would be acceptable to all factions. A conference was held in Asheville, North Carolina, on August 12, 1936. A leader could not be found and the various groups represented there were unable to resolve their rivalries. One accomplishment resulted from this conference: delegates were selected to represent the American anti-semitic organizations at the International Anti-semitic Congress to be held at Erfurt; and as we have already stated, George Deatherage, Ernest Elmhurst, and Dr. George Campbell were chosen. George Deatherage called another convention in Kansas City under the auspices of The American National Confederation in the summer of 1937 to form a coalition of anti-semitic groups, but again they were unable to agree upon a leader.

At last a man appeared upon the scene who seemed to have all the necessary qualifications, and upon whom all the rival factions could agree. Major General George Van Horn Mosely, who had a distinguished record in the first World War, began to attract attention by making a number of speeches attacking Jews, and in one speech going so far as to demand their sterilization. The anti-semites at once joyously saw that Mosely, with his splendid military

record and his vicious hatred of Jews, was a natural choice for national leadership.

A secret meeting was called in May, 1939 at the home of a Mrs. Rudyard Uzzell on Long Island near New York City. About fifty leaders were invited, including Fritz Kuhn, the head of the German American Bund. The grounds of the house were carefully guarded by Bund Storm Troopers and no one was admitted whose credentials were not carefully examined. Mosely arrived in New York, where he registered at a hotel under an assumed name and drove down to the meeting at night, where he delivered a speech setting forth his plans for the formation of a national organization. It was to follow the strategy that had first developed at the Erfurt Conference in 1937. Mosely proposed that the movement should take a military form. Plans were to be made for the seizure of arsenals and public works, and the ultimate object was the establishment of a military dictatorship in the United States to protect the country against what they termed the Jewish Communist Menace. The Jews, of course, were to be deprived of political and civil rights and relegated to a second-class citizenship.

Among the representatives at this carefully selected meeting was someone who immediately informed us in detail of all that was said and done at the meeting. We turned this evidence over to a congressional investigating committee and Mosely was subpoenaed before it for examination.

The first part of his testimony consisted of a denial of any sinister plans, but when he was confronted with the indisputable evidence of his presence at the Uzell meeting and the transcript of his speech he collapsed as a witness and admitted the truth of the accusations. This automatically eliminated him as a factor in the anti-semitic movement.

After Mosely, the search went on for a leader to coordinate the groups and for a while it looked as though Lindbergh was the man they were looking for. Lindbergh, as we have pointed out, ceased to be an important contender for the position of Fuehrer as a result of his anti-preparedness speeches and the widespread denunciation they aroused. During the war Lindbergh acted as test pilot for the Ford Company, and later was sent to the Pacific as an instructor, where it has been reported that he made a valuable contribution to the efficiency of the American Air Forces. Stories have recently been printed in the papers, although not officially admitted, that on several occasions he flew in combat and brought down Japanese planes. This is mentioned as evidence that a movement is still alive to reestablish the Lindbergh prestige, and that in the unpredictable future he may still be an important factor to be considered.

The most recent attempt to find a national leader and form an anti-semitic coalition was made in 1944 by former United States Senator Robert Rice Reynolds in collaboration with the Reverend Gerald L. K. Smith.

It seemed like an effective combination. Smith, who was a protege of the late Huey Long, is a Fundamentalist minister, and both an eloquent rabble rouser and an unscrupulous demagogue. He travels extensively about the country addressing large audiences. He publishes a magazine called *The Cross and The Flag*, and he has a political party called The America First Party with which he has tried several times to be elected to office. His most recent candidacy was for President of the United States. Through all of these media Smith continuously preaches bitter anti-semitism.

Reynolds, who had had a fantastic career as a vaudeville actor, a professional wrestler and other bizarre occupations, was twice elected to the United States Senate from North Carolina. He became chairman of the important

Military Affairs Committee, where he did his best to impede President Roosevelt's preparedness program.

Reynolds realized that his opposition to the war had made him so unpopular in his own State that he could not be reelected so he did not become a candidate when his term expired. He then decided that he would form a political party called The American Nationalist Party, and proceeded with the plans in close cooperation with Gerald Smith.

During our investigations in recent years we learned that anti-semitism was being organized systematically among special groups such as Farm Groups, Youth Groups, Religious Groups, Women's Groups and the like. Upon analyzing our information it became evident that the sinister figure of Gerald Smith was a connecting link between all of them. One of Smith's henchmen, Carl Mote, was the head of an organization of farmers; another, Kenneth Goff, headed a Youth organization; another, Frederick Kister, was the head of a Veterans organization; and so on through all the other groups. All of these organizations were potent spreaders of anti-semitism, and they were the nucleus about which Smith and Reynolds were building their Nationalist Party.

In addition to obtaining detailed information about the program of this proposed new party, we also found out Reynolds had agents traveling about the country, including the notorious Joe McWilliams, soliciting funds under the old pretext that the new organization would be a bulwark against Communism.

All of this information was turned over to one of the crack writers of the powerful Scripps-Howard chain of newspapers that publishes papers in eighteen cities of the United States. A series of six articles exposing the sinister nature of the proposed American Nationalist Party was written by Eugene Segal, and these articles were syndicated in all the Scripps-Howard papers, thus reaching



many millions of readers. The articles were reprinted in pamphlet form, and several hundred thousand were distributed by various organizations with whom we cooperated. They were also extensively reprinted in the labor press, the foreign language press, and the religious press. We also furnished the data that we had to the Better Business Bureau, a national organization set up to expose fraudulent business practices and fraudulent attempts to raise money. They distributed these reprints, and also sent out bulletins to thousands of members throughout the United States exposing the Reynolds' racket. The result of all this was that the source of Reynolds' funds was cut off and the nature of his enterprise was revealed to the public. Shortly thereafter he announced the discontinuation of his publication called *The National Record*.

At the present time there is developing increased activity among the anti-semites who were silent or inactive during the war. An attempt to form another nationalist organization is under way and is being watched carefully by us. At this stage of its development we do not deem it wise to reveal the information that we have, but it is sufficient to say that it includes several names of national prominence and apparently has access to large sums of money. Some of the more dangerous pre-war agitators have been removed from circulation, such as Pelley who is in prison and Father Coughlin who has been silenced by his ecclesiastical superiors. However, with the dismissal of the sedition indictment in Washington, which is expected shortly, those who are still at large feel that with the wartime restrictions removed they will be able to resume their activities with impunity.

No one can anticipate what the next few years will bring. However it is more than likely that an attempt will be made to find a leader with a distinguished military record around whom the forces of hate can rally. We know of one man, a General, who had a brilliant war record,



and who received decorations for bravery, but who nevertheless was in active correspondence with some of the worst leaders of anti-semitism, and who frankly gave his approval to all they were attempting to do. It is in this type of person that we can expect to find the anti-semitic leader of the future.

## CONCLUSION

We have endeavored to show that an international conspiracy existed to destroy the Jews. The members met at intervals and formulated plans and programs, and in between meetings they kept up a continuing correspondence. After the accession of Hitler to power the conspiracy had unlimited funds at its disposal as well as the diplomatic and coercive powers of a sovereign state.

It will take generations to ameliorate the tragic consequences of the past twenty-five years. The battle is being fought, and will be fought on all fronts until the right of the Jew, all over the world, to live in peace, dignity and equality with his neighbors, is achieved. But in the limited sector of the fight with which we are immediately concerned, the fight against organized anti-semitism, there are certain conclusions we can draw and certain lessons we can learn from the experience of recent years.

One important lesson may be summed up in the old maxim "Forewarned is forearmed". It is obvious that we can best meet a danger if we know of its existence and its nature. A malignant growth can be cured in its incipient stage. If it is permitted to grow it may be too late. It is urgent therefore that we be alert to detect early symptoms. This can be done successfully only upon the basis of accurate information.

A potent weapon against anti-semitism is complete, courageous exposure. As we have already said, most of the leaders of the movement have had unsavory repu-

tations, and, in many cases, criminal records. There are decent elements in every country, potential allies in our fight, that would resent the activities of this malodorous gang if they knew what kind of people they were. It is part of our job to tell them. Another and important lesson is that *the enemy must not be permitted to unite!* Whether the fight is being fought in local communities or over a large area, the greatest menace to our security is a fusion of hostile groups.

The power of Hitlerism is destroyed, but its evil emanations are still abroad in the world, polluting the air and poisoning those who are exposed to them. The leaders of anti-semitism are coming out of their hiding places, their prisons and their concentration camps, preparing again to resume their conspiracy of destruction.

We hear disquieting stories of renewed activity by Mosley in England, Arcand in Canada, and the formation of organized anti-semitic groups in such countries as Poland, Rumania and Austria. Even in the United States anti-semitic activity is increasing in vigor. In a speech delivered in New York City on February 3, 1946, from which we have already quoted, O. John Rogge, Assistant Attorney General of the United States, declared that "Fascism is not dead in the United States; it is merely reconverting." And we need not refer again to the shocking reports about Peron and his anti-semitic crusade in Argentina.

We Jews have suffered the most disastrous tragedy in our long history. It is our solemn obligation to our future generations to guarantee to them that it will never happen again.